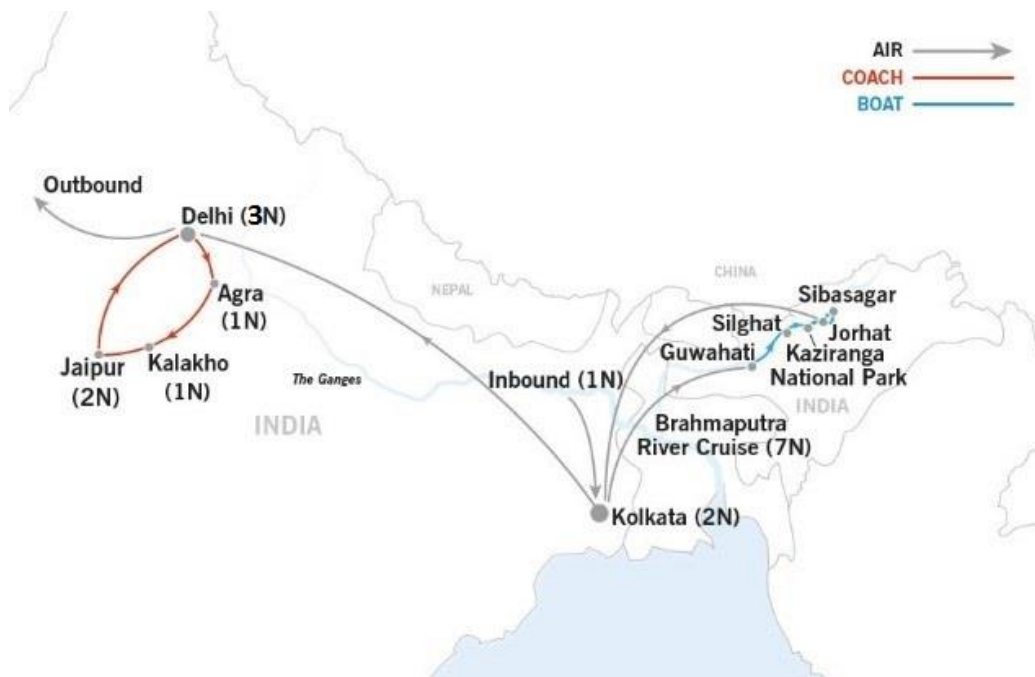




Tour Dossier

India's Golden Triangle and Brahmaputra Private Tour | 17 Days | Comfortable Pace





The Tour Dossier is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website.

The itinerary of the tour dossier has three distinct sections. The first section is to give you a day outline, giving an overview of each day's activities. The second section provides an overview of any physical activity which may be faced on a day of touring and provide approximate durations of transfers, air travel etc. For moderate and active paced tours, please pay special attention to this. The third section provides a more in depth description of destinations and sights you will visit on each day, including any shopping experiences.



Private Tours

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures on a more personal fully-inclusive tour.

Golden Triangle and Brahmaputra highlights:

- ❖ Experience both land and river safaris
- ❖ Gain an insight into tea-making at the Assam tea plantations
- ❖ Gaze upon the magnificent Taj Mahal
- ❖ Discover the 'Pink City' of Jaipur
- ❖ Explore the cities of Delhi & Kolkata
- ❖ Sail in the shadow of the Himalayas

Golden Triangle and Brahmaputra inclusions:

- ❖ Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges
- ❖ All accommodation
- ❖ Meals as stated
- ❖ All sightseeing and entrance fees
- ❖ All transportation and transfers
- ❖ English speaking Local Guides
- ❖ Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- ❖ Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- ❖ Comprehensive travel guides
- ❖ Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

Destination Profile – India

India - India evokes images of colourful religious festivals, deserts lined with historic forts, tented camps nestled in sand dunes, delicious food and royal palaces. Abundant wildlife such as the Asian Elephant and the Royal Bengal Tiger are found in the numerous national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. All of these images of India may be experienced on our tours, but the most enduring memories that you will take away with you is of the happy, smiling people.

Development in India - Although India is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

Roads in India - Main and inner city roads in India have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in India have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only.

Cuisine in India - Indian cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavoursome culinary styles in the world. Indian dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavours. Though Indian cuisine can vary greatly from the Indian food we get in the UK, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive Grand Tour of India group tour from the groups' arrival until the groups' day of departure. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

Tour profile – Golden Triangle and Brahmaputra

Golden Triangle and Brahmaputra is a comfortable paced Tour. This tour is not strenuous, and can be taken at the pace, and according to the abilities of passengers travelling in your party. If any member of your party has mobility difficulties, please advise Wendy Wu Tours, so that our operators can be made aware, and may rearrange the itinerary to suit your needs. If at any point during the tour you feel you are being rushed, or not moving fast enough, please let your Local Guide know, so that they may adjust the touring accordingly and provide you with the best experience possible. Similarly, as you are travelling on a private basis, if you would like to change the touring, dates, timings, please speak to your reservations consultant, prior to travelling, or speak to your Local Guide whilst on tour.

Of course, our local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.



Itinerary – Golden Triangle and Brahmaputra

Days 1-2: Fly to Kolkata

Fly to Kolkata overnight for a one-night stay.

You will be met at Kolkata Airport in the Arrivals Hall by your Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours. You will transfer (45-minute drive) to your hotel and check-in.

Kolkata is the capital of West Bengal and is the main cultural zone of East India. Kolkata placed an important place strategically for the British East India Company.

No meals

Day 3: Delhi to Guwahati

Day Outline

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Guwahati. On arrival at Guwahati Airport, transfer to your Pandaw cruise ship. Enjoy an evening welcome dinner and talk. Guwahati is an ancient area of Assam and is one of the fastest developing cities in India.

Your flight from Delhi to Guwahati is approx. 2 hours 20 minutes.

Guwahati lies on the banks of the Brahmaputra River and is one of the fastest growing areas of the country. There are many Hindu Temples in Guwahati, earning it the nickname 'City of Temples'.

Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4: Sail towards Silghat

Spend the day enjoying the stunning natural scenery and wildlife of the Brahmaputra River. There are opportunities to see river dolphins and birds of prey. After tea enjoy a talk on the 'River Brahmaputra and the tribal life that exists alongside'.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5: Silghat

Pass Tezpur and a gigantic 3 Km long arched bridge arriving at Silghat, where we take an excursion through stunning countryside to a tea estate and factory producing the famous Assam tea.

Touring will be at a relax pace today and you will have an opportunity to try some Assam tea at the tea estate.

Silghat is a town on the southern banks of the Brahmaputra River.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 6: Kaziranga National Park

Our expedition continues with a visit to the UNESCO accredited Kaziranga National Park where we enjoy a safari on elephant searching for the elusive Greater One-Horned Indian Rhinoceros and Indian tiger. We continue to Bagori, where by open jeep we further explore the wildlife of this magnificent park. We also travel to Biswanath Ghat and discover the charming village by small boat where women weave colourful traditional handicrafts by the riverside.

You will need to get on and off your elephant whilst doing the elephant safari.

The Kaziranga National Park is home to two-thirds of the world's one-horned rhinoceroses and has a high density of bengal tigers.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7: River Safari

Cruise through dramatic scenery as you take a boat safari on the Eastern range of Kaziranga where River Dhansiri and River Brahmaputra meet. Here, you can observe wildlife at its most natural including pied kingfishers, eagles, vultures, water buffalos and otters. Dinner is enjoyed al fresco on a deserted island.

You will need to get on and off the boat in order to do the river safari.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 8: Towards Majuli

Visit a local village on what is the world's largest river island and home to the ethnic 'Mishing' people. Here, women weave on hand-loom to create characterful costumes and we enjoy a demonstration of a Dhoti & Chaddor - traditional

Day 9: Majuli, Neamati Ghat and Sibsagar

Arrive at the ancient town of Majuli, where we explore the impressive Satras dating back to the 15th century. We continue to Sibsagar, capital of the Tai-speaking Ahoms who came from Yunan and China in the 13th Century AD. Explore the Shiva Dol,

Day 10: Jorhat – Delhi

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi. On arrival, be transferred to your hotel for a two-night stay.

You will transfer approx. 40 minutes to the airport in Jorhat. Your flight to Delhi will be via Kokata and will take approx. four hours 30 minutes in total. Transfer around 50 minutes to your hotel in Delhi.

Breakfast

Day 11: Delhi

Enjoy a morning tour of Delhi, starting at the Gandhi Memorial, next visiting Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. Visit Qutab Minar, the tallest brick minaret in the world before visit stunning Red Fort, India Gate and the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

Touring today will be at a relaxed pace. You will spend a few hours on your feet sightseeing. Delhi is a very busy city so be careful of your belongings.

Delhi - Delhi is split into two main sections; Old Delhi and New Delhi. Old Delhi is the area defined by the old city wall and is a maze of small alleyways and side streets. Old Delhi's bazaars are legendary; today the great wholesale bazaars of Chandni Chowk still retain a souk-like quality. Their narrow streets are lined with shops, whose goods spill out onto the pavements. New Delhi grew under the British colonial rule and is characterized the grandeur of 19th-century buildings and wide, tree-lined boulevards.

Red Fort - Home of the Mughal emperor for nearly years, the fort is located in the centre of Delhi and

dresses for the men and women of the Mishing communities. It is a pleasant place to explore.

The Mishing people are an ethnic tribal group inhabiting the area of Assam.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

built in 1734, the highest Shiva temple in India. Our day is completed with an insight into the making of Assam tea from a tea estate family.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

houses a number of museums. View the fort as you drive past.

Jama Masjid - Jama Masjid is the largest mosque in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. Built between 1644 and 1658, the mosque was Shah Jahan's final architectural achievement.

India Gate - Located at the end of the Rajpath, India Gate is a moving memorial to the 90,000 Indian servicemen who died in World War 1.

Breakfast

Day 12: Delhi – Agra

Drive to Agra and start your sightseeing at the magnificent Agra Fort which lies on the banks of the Jamuna River. At sunset, we will visit India's most legendary sight, the Taj Mahal, dating back to the mid-17th century.

You will drive 3-4 hours from Delhi to Agra. The roads can sometimes be slightly uneven. Touring will be at a relaxed pace. You will be given time to explore independently at the Taj Mahal. Please be respectful and note our appropriate dress section below.

Agra Fort - situated on the west bank of the Yamuna River and built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573. Its imposing red sandstone ramparts form a crescent along the riverfront and encompass an enormous complex of courtly buildings, ranging in style from the early eclecticism of Akbar to the sublime elegance of



Shah Jahan. The barracks to the north are British additions from the 19th century. A deep moat, once filled with water from the Yamuna River, surrounds the fort.

Taj Mahal - One of the most recognisable monuments in the world, the Taj Mahal is a white marble monument found on the southern bank of the Yamuna River. The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan between the years 1631 -1648 in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631.

Breakfast

Day 13; Agra – Fatehpur Sikri – Kalakho

Travel by road to the magnificent city of Fatehpur Sikri, seen as a 'ghost city' of the magnificent Mughal Empire. Continue to Kalakho. After lunch, enjoy a camel safari in the village meeting the local people. This evening enjoy a cultural dance show performed by local tribes followed by dinner.

Drive one hour from Agra to Fatehpur Sikri. Enjoy some light sightseeing here before driving an additional three hours to Kalakho. You will ride a camel in order to do the camel safari.

Fatehpur Sikri - Located 34km from Agra, Fatehpur Sikri was built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 after it was prophesied that the then childless Akbar would have sons if he moved his capital to the site. At great expense to the empire, the capital was moved here but sadly only occupied for 14 years before slowly being deserted and ruined after Akbar left the city due to a scarcity of water. While here, you will visit the remarkably well-preserved and graceful buildings within the Ghost City including the Jama Masjid, tomb of Salim Chisti, Panch Mahal Palace and other palaces that speak of the grandeur and splendour of the Mughal Empire at the height of its power.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 14: Kalakho – Jaipur

Travel to Abhaneri where you will visit the Abhaneri Stepwell invented by the local people to harvest rainwater. Check into your hotel. This afternoon

visit Sanganeer, famous for its textile printing and handmade paper.

Drive one hour to the Abhaneri Stepwell. You will spend around 30 minutes to one hour here. Next drive a further one hour 30 minutes to Jaipur. Enjoy light sightseeing this afternoon.

Abhaneri Village - Make a stop here to see the Chand Baori Stepwell and marvel at this ancient construction. Over 1,000 years old, the visually outstanding stepwell was originally dedicated to Harshat Mata, the 'Goddess of Joy and Happiness'.

Jaipur - Some parts of the road are very rough so the journey takes most of the afternoon. Jaipur was founded in 1727 as Mughal power within India was declining. The then Maharaja Jai Singh moved his capital from Amer Fort down onto the plain below. The city is now the capital of Rajasthan State and commonly called the 'Pink City' because of the pink paint on all the buildings in the old city area. This was apparently done to imitate the magnificent, red sandstone buildings of the Mughals and in an attempt to impress the Prince of Wales when he visited Jaipur in 1876.

Breakfast included

Day 15: Jaipur

This morning visit the iconic Amer (known as Amber to the British) Fort, dating back to the 11th century. Observe the Palace of the Winds, also known as Hawa Mahal, which dates back to the 18th century. See the Jantar Mantar observatory, built under Maharajah Jai Singh II who was a keen fan of astrology before exploring the City Palace which houses the Royal residence.

You will enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Jaipur today. You will tour at a casual pace and will spend a reasonable amount of time on your feet.

Amer Fort - Built from yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, Amer Fort was constructed in the 16th century by Raja Man Singh. Inside the fort visit the Hall of Victory, which houses the famed Sheesh Mahal.



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Hawa Mahal 'Palace of the Winds' - A five-story palace erected in 1799 by the Sawai Pratap Singh so that the veiled ladies of his harem could observe, unnoticed, the lively street scenes below.

Maharaja's City Palace - A former Royal residence located in the heart of the Old City. Part of the building has been converted into a museum, while the royal family of Jaipur still uses the remaining sections of the palace as a private residence.

Jantar Mantar Observatory - The largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world is located just outside the City Palace. The observatory has 17 large instruments, many of them still in working condition.

Day 16: Jaipur - Delhi

After check out, transfer by coach back to Delhi where you will stay overnight.

Your transfer back to Delhi will take approx. 6 hours.

Breakfast

Day 17: Depart Delhi

After check out, transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Breakfast



Golden Triangle and Brahmaputra

Visa Requirements - A visa is required for entry into India. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. You will need to complete the visa application form online at: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/>. Once completed you will need to print the completed form, and send it to our office along with your passport and 2 photos per person. The photos should be 2 x 2 in size taken within the last 6 months, in order for our office to process your visa with the embassy. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. Any passports and visa applications that require an express service, or that are received in our office less than 6 weeks prior to departure will incur a £50 per passport express fee. Your passport must be valid for 6 months from your date of return from India, and should have at least 2 blank pages for your Indian visa.

In rare cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Indian embassy and/or be required to attend an interview at the embassy. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as we have been advised.

Insurance - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Accommodation - All hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your /Local Guide.

Exchanging Cash - It is highly recommended that when travelling to cities outside of Delhi and other main cities that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout India however, other currencies such as pounds can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging

your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort/Local Guide will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expenses - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however, for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Transport: Air – Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Consider Cultural Differences - India has many religions, cultures and histories. Foreign tourists, particularly female travellers, may be stared at as Indian women in some areas generally do not go out without their father or husband. Please be considerate of this, the local beliefs and customs and dress with consideration.

Appropriate Dress - When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and pants or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques. When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Religious sites and homes throughout India – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove them, you will have to remain outside.

Bring some shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces. The above itinerary will



indicate when you need to consider this. For admission to the main mausoleum area at the Taj Mahal, you are required to wear shoe covers (this may be provided on site - be prepared to bring an additional pair of socks).

Climate - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

After your booking - Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, a travel guide (which includes a suggested packing list) and phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international e-tickets.

Updated: 11 April 2016